operated by SIDBI has become operational with effect from 1st April, 2004. The maximum rate of interest on loans to be provided from the Fund will be not more than 2% below the Prime Lending Rate of SIDBI, *i.e.* not exceeding 9.5% at present.

(c) Ministry of SSI presently administers two separate policies, namely: (i) Policy for reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector and (ii) Purchase & Price Preference Policy. The objectives and considerations behind the two policies are quite different.

Therefore, dereservation of 85 items is not likely to have any direct impact on benefits of the Price Purchase Preference Policy for SSI manufacturers of these items.

Definition of Small Scale Industries

†2534. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for changing the definition of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Small Scale Industries (SSIs) is defined on the basis of limit in investment in plant and machinery of a unit, which is at present Rs. 100 lakhs, except for a few notified items where the investment limit in plant and machinery for SSI unit is Rs. 500 lakhs. The Government has received several suggestions for revising the limit of investment in plant and machinery. However, a final view has not been taken as yet in this regard.

Export control for satellite systems

2535. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. licensing divisions for ISRO and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.